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Conference News and Announcements

The Annual Meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Association will be held on Saturday, **April 4th**, and hosted by one of our newest churches, **Garden of Grace UCC**, Columbia, SC (www.goguucc.com). The theme of our keynoter, Associate Conference Minister **Kathy Clark** will be "Ministry—for Such a Time as This". The meeting will start at 9:00A and end at 1:30P. Breakfast and lunch will be served. The Association will also conduct an **Ecclesiastical Council** for **Ben Rose**, a candidate for ordination, a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, and hospice chaplain.

The Alabama-Tennessee Association announces its **Annual Meeting** to be held April 24-25, also hosted by one of our newest congregations, **Holy Trinity Community Church, UCC**, in Nashville. The event will begin on Friday evening at 4:00P and conclude with lunch on Saturday. The theme? *Ministry—For Such a Time as This!* The keynoter for the occasion is **Marti Baumer**, recently retired from the faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**; Marti has been working closely on the Ministry Issues Pronouncement Implementation. Worship will be led by Holy Trinity Drama Team. Registration and information have been sent to all congregations.

We have conducted a total of three **Awareness/Education Meetings** concerning a campaign for the future of the Southeast Conference. The meetings have been held in Birmingham, Nashville, and Atlanta. There are two more meetings; **March 28th at 11:00A at Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga**, and **April 18th at 11:00A at Midway Congregational UCC, Midway GA**. The purpose of these meetings is to receive feedback on the proposed purpose of the campaign, to refine the presentation further, and to place it before the Board of the Conference in May asking them for a recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Conference in June. If you are not one of the over 70 leaders and pastors who have attended a meeting to date, we hope you will make every effort to be at one of the two remaining meetings. Your voice and perspectives are valued.



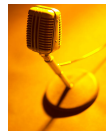
The congregations that were represented at the **Holy Trinity Community UCC Nashville Awareness/Education** meeting On February 28th were; **Holy Trinity Community UCC, Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Howard Congregational UCC, from Nashville, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, Deer Lodge Congregational UCC, TN, Fairfield Glade Community Church, TN, Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga.**

At the meeting on **March 14**, at Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, the following churches were represented: **Virginia Highland (A Baptist and UCC Congregation), First Congregational UCC, Rush Memorial UCC, Open Community UCC**, all of Atlanta, and **Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC, Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston, SC and Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA. We thank First Congregational UCC, Birmingham, Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville and Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta** for their warm and generous hospitality at each of these meetings!

Mark your calendars! **The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference UCC** will be held in the Atlanta area June 11-13. Our theme will be "Transforming Churches Transforming Lives", with a variety of workshops designed to equip churches for vitality in their ministries. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosted by Sandy Springs Christian Church, in the Northern tier of Atlanta. Sandy Springs Christian Church is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) an ecumenical partner of the UCC. We will celebrate this relationship as a part of the meeting. UCC congregations of the Atlanta area will host the meeting together. We will be welcoming as a keynoter **Steve Sterner**, the **Acting Executive Minister of Local Church**



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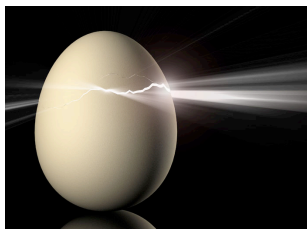
Ministries of the UCC, and a member of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta. We are pleased to announce that our continuing partnership with **Lancaster Theological Seminary** will be marked with presentations and representation from the seminary.



Conference Minister **Tim Downs** attended a meeting of the **Southern Region UCC Conferences** in Orlando March 4-5 at which time we explored ways in which Southern, Southeast, Florida, and South Central can cooperate more fully in ministry. We celebrated the ways in which we are collaborating around new church development, youth ministries, financial development, and women's ministries. We look forward to future collaborations around leadership development, congregational vitality, and technologies.

We are continuing to develop the **Friends of the Conference Campaign**, which will offer an opportunity to make individual contributions to OCWM Basic Support, or specific ministries of the Conference. **The Board of Directors of the Conference has pledged over \$6,000** to support this effort to date.

The Southeast Conference staff is organizing a convocation of new churches from the Formula of Agreement partners in the Southeast, on April 21st. **Susannah Davis** the pastor of **Kirkwood UCC**, Atlanta, and **Susie Smith**, pastor of **Peace Congregational UCC**, Clemson, SC, will be gathering with their counterparts from congregations of three Presbyteries of the **Presbyterian Church (USA)** and the Southeastern Synod of the **ELCA**. The purpose of these will be to explore ways in which we can collaborate to strengthen the training and ministries we each have in new church development.



The Southeast Conference is beginning to cultivate congregations that are candidates to birth new churches. Called **'Church Multiplication'** the United Church of Christ considers this traditional strategy for new church development to be a growing edge. If this is an initiative in which you believe your church would have an interest, be in touch with **Cameron Trimble** at ctrimble@secucc.org.

The Southeast Conference was well represented at the gathering of the Boards of the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, March 19-22. At that meeting the conversation concerning a reorganizing of the national setting of the UCC to achieve greater collaboration and coordination among the ministries of the UCC for more effective mission was brought to an end, and will not move forward. From our conference the following were present: **Gary Myers**, pastor of **Trinity Congregational UCC**, Athens, AL, **Dorinda Broadnax**, licensed minister and member of **Community Congregational UCC**, Montgomery, **Elizabeth Clement** and **Marvin Morgan** members of **First Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, **Michael Pater**, pastor of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, **Tim Downs**, Conference Minister. **Elizabeth Clement**, who serves on the Board of the Office of General Ministries of the UCC, also serves on the Governance Follow-up Task Force II, the recommendations of which were turned down at this meeting.

To view the full calendar of events of the Conference and Associations, visit our web site at www.secucc.org!

Posted on March, 2009

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